

MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

BLACKOUT AND AIR RAID PROTECTION REGULATIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL, CITY OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, JULY 2, 1942.

Approved July 2, 1942, by the Executive Committee of the Milwaukee Council of Defense, pursuant to authority vested in that body by Common Council Ordinance No. 267, File Number 73274-b, passed by the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 22, 1941.

Section 1. BLACKOUTS.

In order to protect life and property in the City of Milwaukee, the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to carry out blackout and air raid protection measures at such times and for such periods as are authorized or ordered by the War Department. This authorization and power shall extend to practice blackouts and air raid drills for such periods as the Mayor shall deem appropriate or necessary, but subject always to the order and direction of the War Department.

Section 2. BLACKOUT AND AIR RAID WARNING.

Warnings of the beginning and termination of blackout and air raid periods shall be given throughout the City by audible siren and whistle signals consisting of a series of short blasts of power horns or steam whistles for a period of two minutes or sirens on a fluctuating pitch (rising and falling sound) for the air raid signal and a full two-minute blast on a steady pitch for the "all clear" signal.

Section 3. LIGHTS AND ILLUMINATION DURING BLACKOUTS.

From the time the official air raid signal is given, continuously until the all-clear signal is given thereafter, between sunset and sunrise:

(a) All lights and illumination outside or visible from the outside of any building, either through doors, windows, skylights or otherwise, shall be immediately put out. Lights inside any building may be kept on or turned on only where through the use of shades, blinds, curtains, blankets, screens, paint, paper, cardboard, or otherwise no lighting is visible from the outside. This rule shall apply to all buildings of every kind and description, including but not limited to dwellings, residences, apartments, apartment houses, hotels, boarding houses, lodging houses, stores, office buildings, warehouses, manufacturing establishments, industrial plants, railroad stations, schools, churches, hospitals and other institutions. The occupant of any portion of a building shall be responsible for the observance of this provision as to such portion thereof as he may occupy. If one occupies an entire building, he shall be responsible for the observance of this provision as to the whole of such building. In the case of hotels, office buildings, apartment houses, lodging houses, boarding houses and other buildings to which the public is permitted or invited or as to any portion of which there is a common use by the occupants thereof, the owner, lessee or the person or persons in charge of the operation thereof, as the case may be, shall be responsible for the observance of this provision as to all portions of the building to which the public is permitted or invited or as to which there is a common use by the occupants thereof. In the case of vacant or unoccupied buildings or vacant or unoccupied portions of buildings, the owner, lessee or the person or persons in charge thereof shall be responsible for the observance of this provision with respect to such vacant buildings or vacant portions thereof, as the case may be, as he shall own, lease or have in his charge.

- (b) No door, window or other exit and apertures shall be opened, if the opening of the same will allow light to be visible from the outside.
- (c) All lights on any sign, billboard, pier or other similar structure shall be immediately put out and kept out. The owner, lessee or the person or persons in charge of the operation of such sign, billboard, pier, bridge or other similar structure as the case may be shall be responsible for the observance of this provision.
- (d) All street, traffic and beacon lights and other public lights on and in the streets, lanes, alleys, squares, parks and bridges of the City of Milwaukee (except those which are dimmed or hooded in a manner approved in writing by the War Department) shall be immediately put out.
- (e) All other lights, including warning or danger signals, shall be immediately put out and kept out; Provided, however, That warning or danger signals may remain lighted in such manner as may be approved by the War Department. The owner, lessee or the person or persons in charge of the operation of such lights, as the case may be, shall be responsible for the observance of this provision. In case of an announced test or trial blackout, street and navigation lights, traffic warning and danger signals may remain lighted without being dimmed, hooded or otherwise masked unless otherwise ordered by the War Department.
- Section 4. DUTY OF OCCUPANTS, OWNERS AND LESSEES.
- In order to carry out effectively the provision of the foregoing section:
- (a) No occupant of any building or any portion thereof shall permit such buildings or such portion thereof as he may occupy to be lighted or illuminated (either on the outside or on the inside, in such way that such lighting or illumination is visible from the outside) from sunset to sunrise, unless while so lighted or illuminated there is stationed in such building or such portion thereof, as the case may be, a person or persons capable of and responsible for immediately putting out the lights or making them invisible from the outside in the event an air raid warning or signal for a blackout is given. This provision shall apply to every occupant of any building whatsoever. In the case of hotels, office buildings, apartment houses, lodging houses, boarding houses and other buildings to which the public is permitted or invited or as to any portion of which there is a common use by the occupants thereof, the owner, lessee or the person or persons in charge of the operation thereof, as the case may be, shall be responsible for the observance of this provision as to all portions of the building to which the public is permitted or invited or as to which there is a common use by the occupants thereof. In the case of vacant or unoccupied buildings or vacant and unoccupied portions of buildings, the owner, lessee or the person or persons in charge thereof shall be responsible for the observance of this provision with respect to such vacant buildings or vacant portions thereof, as the case may be, as he shall own, lease or have in his charge.
- (b) No owner, lessee or person or persons in charge of the operation, as the case may be, of any sign, billboard, pier or similar structure, street, traffic or beacon light or other lights on and in the streets, alleys, squares, parks or bridges of the City of Milwaukee or of any other light, including a warning or danger signal, shall permit the same to be illuminated or lighted between sunset and sunrise unless such owner, lessee or person in charge has made adequate arrangements for immediately putting out the same in the event of an air raid or blackout signal or alarm; Provided, however, That street lights, traffic signals, beacon lights, warning or danger signals may remain lighted during blackouts if they are dimmed, hooded or masked in a manner approved in writing by the War Department.

## Section 5. OPERATION OF MANUFACTURING PLANTS.

Every operator of any plant, manufacturing establishment or factory shall during the period of the blackout so operate the plant, manufacturing establishment or factory with respect to furnaces and other light emitting apparatus, that light will not be given off or the apparatus, including smoke stacks, shall be so screened as to prevent the reflection of light from being visible from above, or operate in a manner approved in writing by the War Department.

## Section 6. PEDESTRIANS.

Whenever any air raid warning shall be given, all persons, except duly authorized persons, shall immediately leave all streets, squares, parks, and open spaces and shall proceed to the nearest cover, avoiding the crossing of streets, alleys and other public places as much as possible. It shall be unlawful during the period of any air raid to congregate in groups of five or more persons on any public sidewalk, street, alley, park or outdoor place. During a blackout it shall be unlawful for any person to expose any light whatsoever while on a street, alley, square, sidewalk, park, yard or open space, except that authorized persons engaged in emergency work may use lights of such character and with such screens or hoods as may be approved by the War Department.

## Section 7. VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND USE OF HIGHWAYS.

1. From the time the official air raid signal is given, continuously until the official all-clear signal is given thereafter, only the following types of traffic shall be permitted to move:

(a) Vehicles of the armed forces of the United States of America.

(b) Ambulances; municipal, county, state and federal police agencies and fire vehicles and vehicles being then officially used by the several branches of the Civilian Defense Organization.

(c) Vehicles actually in emergency service for the repair or control of public utility equipment, whether publicly or privately owned.

(d) Vehicles of the Wisconsin State Guard under actual control of officers or enlisted men of the Wisconsin State Guard and actually in emergency service.

2. Vehicles described in subsections (a) and (b) of the preceding section shall be deemed emergency vehicles and as such shall have general right of way over all other traffic, except that ambulances, municipal, county, state and federal police agencies and fire vehicles shall have the right of way over other emergency vehicles.

3. All vehicles in emergency use not already visibly marked as such shall be lettered on the front, sides and back with the official letter "E" in white as designated by the Milwaukee County Council of Defense, said letters to be of a size of not less than eight (8) inches high. It shall be a violation of these rules and regulations for any person to own or operate a motor vehicle with such emergency markings unless authorized in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 (1) hereof. Emergency vehicles in case of an emergency call may use their lights when running except when otherwise ordered by the War Department.

4. Operators of all other vehicular traffic shall:

(a) Immediately draw to the side of the highway or street and stop in such a manner and in such a place so as not to double park or obstruct the reasonable use of the highway or street, fire hydrant, or police or fire station driveway or other

emergency driveway. During the period of such air raid alarm, parking regulations pertaining to lights, time limits, distances from intersections and parking in prohibited zones, except street car and bus loading zones shall be suspended except insofar as their violation may constitute a violation of these rules and regulations.

(b) Extinguish all lights.

(c) Lock the ignition of such vehicle, but shall not, in any case lock the doors of such vehicle if left unattended.

(d) Set the hand brake of such vehicle.

(e) In the case of horse-drawn vehicles, immediately halter the horse or horses thereof firmly and securely to a fixed object if one is available and if none is available to the vehicle itself after unhitching said horses.

(f) Postal vehicles shall not be governed by the provisions of sub-section (c) of this section, but shall be locked to conform with United States post office regulations, or shall be allowed to drive to the nearest post office where mail can be removed and locked up.

5. Mass transportation vehicles, such as street cars, trackless trolleys and busses, shall stop as soon as possible at a location in the street not opposite a cross street or alley, and not opposite each other or closer than one hundred (100) feet apart, so as to give the least interference in the street. All passengers shall be permitted to proceed to shelters in nearby buildings. All lights on such vehicles shall then be blacked out, except those which are so reduced in intensity and concealed as may be permitted or approved by the War Department. When so authorized by the War Department, street cars, trackless trolleys and local mass transportation busses may be operated in regular service when equipped with special lights conforming to specifications of the War Department for such lights.

6. During any period of blackout it shall be unlawful for any vehicle authorized to be operated during said period to operate at a speed greater than twenty (20) miles per hour, except fire fighting apparatus.

7. Nothing in these rules and regulations shall operate to limit the authority of any police officer, to prescribe the place and manner of the parking or storage of such vehicle or vehicles, in which event operators of vehicles shall immediately comply with the lawful directions of such officer or officers.

#### Section 8. UNAUTHORIZED WARNING OR ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL PROHIBITED.

No unauthorized person shall operate a siren or other device so as to simulate a blackout or air raid signal or the termination of a blackout or air raid.

#### Section 9. LIGHTS DURING BLACKOUT DECLARED PUBLIC NUISANCE.

Any light displayed or allowed to remain visible to the outside contrary to these rules and regulations is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and when deemed necessary, in order to protect life or property during a blackout or air raid, police officers are authorized and directed to enter upon any premises within the City of Milwaukee, using such reasonable force as may be necessary, and extinguish lights or take other necessary action to make effective any provision of these rules and regulations. Any person refusing to permit or resisting the entrance of